

Re. : Response to Notice under 37 CFR § 1.251 and Preliminary Amendment
Appl. No. : 10/616,800
Filed : July 10, 2003

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

Please cancel Claims 1-20.

Please add the following new Claims:

21. (New) A folding table that is movable between a working position and a storage position, the folding table comprising:

a table top including a first portion and a second portion;

a first support assembly connected to the first portion of the table top, the first support assembly being sized and configured to support the first portion of the table top above a surface;

a second support assembly connected to the second portion of the table top, the second support assembly being sized and configured to support the second portion of the table top above a surface; and

a hinge assembly connected to the first portion and the second portion of the table top, the hinge assembly being sized and configured to allow the first portion and the second portion of the table top to be moved between the working position and the storage position, the hinge assembly comprising:

a first hinge connector including a body and a connector portion, the body being connected to the first portion of the table top;

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a second hinge connector including a body and a connector portion, the body being connected to the second portion of the table top;

a hinge pin disposed through the connector portion of the first hinge connector and through the connector portion of the second hinge connector;

a locking member disposed within an opening in the second hinge connector, the locking member being movable between a locked position and an unlocked position; and

a cam portion of the first hinge connector that is sized and configured to contact the locking member when the locking member is in the locked position to maintain the locking member in the locked position.

22. (New) The folding table as in Claim 21, further comprising a locking mechanism that is sized and configured to move the locking member between the locked and unlocked positions.

23. (New) The folding table as in Claim 22, wherein the locking mechanism includes a first end and a second end, the locking mechanism further comprising:

a first opening disposed proximate the first end of the locking mechanism, at least a portion of the hinge pin being disposed within the first opening;

a second opening disposed proximate the first end of the locking mechanism, at least a portion of the locking member being disposed within the second opening; and

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a handle disposed proximate the second end of the locking mechanism, the handle being sized and configured to be grasp by a user.

24. (New) The folding table as in Claim 21, further comprising a frame connected to the table top, the frame including a first portion connected to the first portion of the table top and a second portion connected to the second portion of the table top, the first hinge connector being connected to the first portion of the frame and the second hinge connector being connected to the second hinge portion of the frame.

25. (New) The folding table as in Claim 21, further comprising a first support brace including a first end connected to the hinge assembly and a second end connected to the first support assembly; and further comprising a second support brace including a first end connected to the hinge assembly and a second end connected to the second support assembly.

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26. (New) A folding table that is movable between a working position and a storage position, the folding table comprising:

a table top including a first portion and a second portion;

a hinge assembly including a first portion connected to the first portion of the table top and a second portion connected to the second portion of the table top, the hinge assembly being sized and configured to allow the first portion and the second portion of the table top to be moved between the working position and the storage position;

a hinge pin connecting the first portion of the hinge assembly and the second portion of the hinge assembly; and

a locking member connected to the second portion of the hinge assembly, the locking member being selectively movable between a locked position in which the locking member engages the first portion of the hinge assembly and locks the hinge assembly in a first position and an unlocked position in which the first portion of the hinge assembly can rotate relative to the second portion of the hinge assembly and the hinge assembly is unlocked.

27. (New) The folding table as in Claim 26, wherein the first portion of the hinge assembly includes an outwardly extending flange with an engaging portion, the engaging portion being sized and configured to engage the locking member when the locking member is in the locked position.

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28. (New) A folding table that is capable of being folded between a first position and a second position, the table comprising:

a table top including a first section and a second section;

a first support assembly connected to the first section of the table top;

a second support assembly connected to the second section of the table top; and

a hinge assembly interconnecting the first section of the table top and the second section of the table top, the hinge assembly being sized and configured to allow the table to be moved between the first position and the second position, the hinge assembly including a locked position and an unlocked position, the hinge assembly comprising:

a first hinge portion connected to the first section of the table top;

a second hinge portion connected to the second section of the table top;

a hinge pin connecting the first hinge portion of the hinge assembly and the second hinge portion of the hinge assembly;

an engaging member of the first hinge portion of the hinge assembly; and

a locking member of the second hinge portion of the hinge assembly, the locking member engaging the engaging member when the hinge assembly is in the locked position to secure the hinge assembly in the locked position.

29. (New) The folding table as in Claim 28, wherein the locking member is movably connected to the second hinge portion of the hinge assembly, the locking member being movable

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between a first position in which the locking member engages the engaging member and the hinge assembly is in the locked position and a second position in which the locking member does not engage the engaging member and the hinge assembly is in an unlocked position.

30. (New) The folding table as in Claim 28, further comprising a locking mechanism that is sized and configured to move the locking member between the locked position and an unlocked position.

31. (New) The folding table as in Claim 30, wherein the locking mechanism includes a first end and a second end, the locking mechanism further comprising:

a first opening disposed proximate the first end of the locking mechanism, at least a portion of the hinge pin being disposed within the first opening;

a second opening disposed proximate the first end of the locking mechanism, at least a portion of the locking member being disposed within the second opening; and

a handle disposed proximate the second end of the locking mechanism, the handle being sized and configured to be grasp by a user.

32. (New) The folding table as in Claim 28, further comprising a frame connected to the table top, the frame including a first portion connected to the first portion of the table top and a second portion connected to the second portion of the table top, the first hinge connector being

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connected to the first portion of the frame and the second hinge connector being connected to the second hinge portion of the frame.

33. (New) The folding table as in Claim 28, further comprising a first support brace including a first end connected to the hinge assembly and a second end connected to the first support assembly; and further comprising a second support brace including a first end connected to the hinge assembly and a second end connected to the second support assembly.

34. (New) The folding table as in Claim 28, further comprising a frame connected to the table top, the frame including a first pair of side rails connected to the first portion of the table top and a second pair of side rails connected to the second portion of the table top; further comprising a first hinge assembly with a first hinge portion connected to one of the first pair of side rails of the frame and a second hinge portion connected to one of the second pair of side rails of the frame; and further comprising a second hinge assembly with a first hinge portion connected to the other of the first pair of side rails of the frame and a second hinge portion connected to the other of the second pair of side rails of the frame.

35. (New) The folding table as in Claim 34, wherein a single hinge pin connects the first hinge portion and the second hinge portion of the first hinge assembly, and connects the first hinge portion and the second hinge portion of the second hinge assembly.

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36. (New) The folding table as in Claim 34, further comprising a first support brace including one end connected to the first hinge assembly and the second hinge assembly, and another end connected to the first support assembly; and further comprising a second support brace including one end connected to the first hinge assembly and the second hinge, and another end connected to the second support assembly.

37. (New) A table comprising:

a table top including a first table top section and a second table top section, the table top being positionable between a folded position and unfolded position;

a table frame connected to the table top and including a first side rail, the first side rail including:

a first elongated rail portion; and

a second elongated rail portion;

a hinge assembly pivotally interconnecting the first rail portion and the second rail portion and being positionable between a first position in which table top is positioned in the folded position and a second position in which the table top is position in the unfolded position, the hinge assembly including:

a first connector including:

a first flange including a first cam portion; and

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a second flange including a second cam portion;
a second connector including:
a third flange disposed at least partially between the first and second
flanges; and
a fourth flange disposed at least partially between the first and second
flanges; and
a pivot pin pivotally connecting the first, second, third, and fourth flanges;
a locking pin movable among a plurality of positions; and
a lever disposed at least partially between the first and second flanges, disposed at
least partially between the third and fourth flanges, and pivotally connected to the pivot pin;
the lever being sized and configured to guide the locking pin among a plurality of positions,
including a first position in which the locking pin engages the first cam portion and the
second cam portion and a second position in which the locking pin is spaced apart from the
first cam portion and the second cam portion.

38. (New) A table as recited in claim 37, wherein the lever includes a first aperture, the
third flange includes a second aperture, and the fourth flange includes a third aperture and wherein
the locking pin is at least partially disposed within each of the first, second, and third apertures.

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39. (New) A table as recited in claim 37, wherein the lever includes a first elongated aperture having a pair of opposing rounded ends, the third flange includes a second elongated aperture having a pair of opposing rounded ends, and the fourth flange includes a third elongated aperture having a pair of opposing rounded ends and wherein the locking pin is at least partially disposed within each of the first, second, and third elongated apertures.

40. (New) A table as recited in claim 39, wherein the locking pin is disposed proximate one of the opposing ends of the first elongated aperture when the locking pin is in the first position; wherein the locking pin is disposed proximate the other opposing end of the first elongated aperture when the locking pin is in the second position; wherein the locking pin is disposed proximate one of the opposing ends of the second elongated aperture when the locking pin is in the first position; and wherein the locking pin is disposed proximate the other opposing end of the second elongated aperture when the locking pin is in the second position.

41. (New) A table as recited in claim 37, wherein the lever further comprises an anchoring portion including a first receiving portion and a second receiving portion.

42. (New) A table as recited in claim 41, wherein the first receiving portion comprises a first groove having a generally concave configuration and the second receiving portion comprises a second groove having a generally concave configuration.

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43. (New) A table comprising:

- a table top including a first table top section and a second table top section, the table top being positionable between a folded position and unfolded position;

- a table frame including:

- a first rail portion; and

- a second rail portion;

- a hinge assembly pivotally interconnecting the first rail portion and the second rail portion and being positionable between a first position in which table top is positioned in the folded position and a second position in which the table top is position in the unfolded position, the hinge assembly including:

- a first connector; and

- a second connector pivotally connected to the first connector;

- a locking pin movable among a plurality of positions, including a first position in which the locking pin releasably locks the hinge assembly when the table top is position in the unfolded position; and

- a lever including a first aperture, the first aperture sized and configured to guide the locking pin among a plurality of positions.

44. (New) A table as recited in claim 43, wherein the lever further comprises an anchoring portion including a first receiving portion and a second receiving portion.

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45. (New) A table as recited in claim 44, wherein the first receiving portion comprises a first groove having a generally concave configuration and the second receiving portion comprises a second groove having a generally concave configuration.

46. (New) A table comprising:

a blow-molded plastic table top including a first table top section and a second table top section, the table top being positionable between a folded position and unfolded position;

a table frame including:

a first metal rail portion; and

a second metal rail portion;

a hinge assembly pivotally interconnecting the first rail portion and the second rail portion;

a locking pin movable among a plurality of positions, including a first position in which the locking pin releasably locks the hinge assembly when the table top is position in the unfolded position; and

a lever sized and configured to guide the locking pin among the plurality of positions.

47. (New) A table as recited in claim 46, wherein the lever includes a first aperture sized and configured to guide the locking pin among a plurality of positions.